



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Crop and Weather Information for the Month of February 2003 Western

Grays Harbor: Ag producers enjoyed a couple of weeks of early spring weather during the month, allowing them to get a head start on spring chores. Pastures are actively growing. Heavy rainfall early in the month resulted in some minor flooding along major rivers and streams. Christmas tree growers are finishing up planting of new fields and preparing equipment for herbicide applications. Greenhouse tomato growers reported plants are rapidly growing as a result of sunny days and increasing day length. Soils remain super saturated in most vegetable fields. Direct market farms were potting plants for spring sales.

Pierce/Southern King: No unusual situations to report. Crop conditions remain normal for this time of year. No report of crop damage due to a weather related event.

Thurston: Above normal temperatures with copious rainfall have many Ag producers predicting that we are having an earlier than normal spring. However, overnight temperatures plunged to the mid teens during the last week resulting in a slowing of plant development. Christmas tree growers have completed more than 75% of this year's planting and are gearing up for herbicide applications to tree plantations in March. Several growers have brought in examples of Silver Spotted Tiger Moth infestations from Douglas Fir. Nurserymen are breathing a sigh of relief that winter months are nearly over without any major catastrophic storm events. Pastures have started growing rapidly but soils are simply too wet yet for any field cultivation. Ag producers continue to express concern over high fuel prices and their potential impact on this year's crop production. Hay supplies for livestock feeding remain adequate.

Central

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 11 degrees below normal to 11 degrees above normal, with a low temperature of 11 degrees on February 25th. There was .28 of an inch of precipitation for the month. Several fruit producers have reported crop damage due the freezing weather conditions.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat remains in fair-good condition with average sub-soil moisture and good surface moisture.

Asotin/Garfield: Rainfall was about average in February and temperatures were above normal. Most of the winter wheat has now emerged with the warm temperatures. Additional moisture is needed this spring to help recover from the prior years drought conditions. Pasture and rangeland also benefitted from the rain and warm temperatures, but additional moisture is also needed to recover from drought.

Franklin: Weather was mild and sunny. Early potato planting has begun. Other fields are being prepared for planting.

Lincoln: Winter wheat remains in mostly good condition. Subsoil moisture is adequate and surface moisture is nearly saturated.

Whitman: A warmer and wetter than normal El Nino winter is helping some areas catch up on moisture. The lack of freezing conditions allowed much of the rain that was received in February to soak into thirsty fields. Winter wheat emergence has been helped by the warm wet conditions. The last week of February had colder winter-like conditions. Wind and freezing conditions caused concern about winter wheat stands but no damage has yet been reported.

Weather Summary

February 1- February 28, 2003

										Days of	Days of
Station	HI	Air Temperature			Precipitation		Days	HDD	HDD	32	28
		LO	AVG	DFN	Total	DFN		TOT	DFN	Cold	Cold
West											
Bellingham_Intl	55	22	40	-2	1.76	-1.88	10	683	+15	15	11
Everett	52	28	41	-2	1.68	-1.55	11	662	+18	9	1
Hoquiam	59	25	43	-1	3.14	-5.10	12	595	+15	8	1
Kelso	61	19	44	+2	0.03	-4.91	1	590	-43	9	6
Olympia	55	18	41	+0	2.23	-3.54	12	661	-8	14	9
Sea-Tac	52	25	42	-2	1.80	-2.19	13	637	+34	9	1
Shelton	54	20	41	-2	2.82	-5.23	12	658	+24	13	7
Tacoma_AP	55	21	41	-2	1.54	-2.92	12	657	+30	14	9
Vancouver_WA	61	22	44	+3	2.42	-2.11	12	583	-69	10	8
Central											
Ellensburg	55	11	37	+5	0.28	-0.61	3	781	-123	21	14
Omak	57	11	34	+6	0.44	-0.96	2	858	-140	24	21
Stampede Pass	56	9	30	+4	6.73	-2.46	14	967	-98	28	19
Wenatchee	54	17	38	+5	0.22	-0.54	3	748	-119	19	10
Yakima_AP	60	11	39	+3	0.31	-0.43	4	735	-66	23	15
Northeast											
Colville	55	12	36	+6	0.64	-1.22	3	812	-146	21	18
Deer Park	52	10	33	+3	0.71	-0.96	6	889	-57	23	19
Spokane AP	51	12	34	+0	0.54	-0.95	8	876	-13	23	17
East Central											
Ephrata	57	14	38	+4	0.46	-0.24	3	745	-115	19	11
Moses Lake	58	14	38	+5	0.66	-0.04	7	741	-119	20	12
Quincy	57	14	39	+5	0.37	-0.32	3	735	-125	18	14
Ritzville	54	15	36	+3	1.04	-0.05	7	802	-65	23	14
Southeast											
Hanford	62	15	40	+1	0.44	-0.16	4	698	-26	16	10
Pasco	64	11	40	+2	0.97	+0.27	7	687	-34	17	13
Pullman	49	14	35	+2	1.21	-0.94	9	835	-33	20	12
Walla Walla	56	20	40	+0	2.49	+0.65	14	700	-4	13	7
Whitman Mission	58	16	39	+0	2.49	+1.28	13	728	-10	20	14
Western Idaho Panhandle											
Coeur D'Alene	50	10	35	+1	1.32	-1.16	7	827	-21	22	12
Lewiston_ID	57	17	39	+0	1.29	+0.40	11	713	-14	13	7

Summary based on NWS data.

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

HDD = Heating Degree Days (Base 65).

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